



**NOTICE
OF
MEETING**

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

will meet on

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2014

at

6.30PM

in the

DESBOROUGH 4, TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

COUNCILLORS MALCOLM BEER, ASGHAR MAJEED & JOHN STRETTON
& EXTERNAL MEMBERS: http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/laf_members.htm

Karen Williams
Democratic Services Manager

Issued: 24 November 2014

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting.

The agenda is available on the Council's web site at www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Panel Administrator **Tanya Leftwich** (01628) 796345

Fire Alarm - In the event of the fire alarm sounding or other emergency, please leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings and do not use the lifts. Congregate in the Town Hall Car Park, Park Street, Maidenhead (immediately adjacent to the Town Hall) and do not re-enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

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AGENDA - PART I

ITEM	SUBJECT			PAGE No
1.	Welcome, apologies and introductions	(10 mins)	Peter Thorn	-
	(a) Declarations of interest		All	-
	(b) Approval of Minutes – 30 th June 2014		Andrew Fletcher	i-vi
	(c) Matters arising from last meeting		Andrew Fletcher	1-7
2.	Members' update	(10 mins)	All	-
3.	Maidenhead Waterways	(30 mins)	Richard Davenport	-
4.	Rights of Way Improvement Plan review	(25 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	8-53
5.	Milestones Statement and targets 2015/2016 consultation (a) Path Progress Report and analysis of the existing public rights of way network (b) Progress towards targets and priorities for 2014/2015 (c) Consultation on the targets and priorities for 2015/2016	(20 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	54-56
6.	Linking of bridleways in the Borough	(15 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	-
7.	LAF Monitoring items (a) Thames Path 'missing link' at Bridge Gardens (b) Deregulation Bill update (c) Easy going routes (d) Volunteer works (e) LAF members' discussion forum	(5 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	57-58
8.	Current Legal Orders	(5 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	59-61
9.	Feedback from the LAF Site visit to Rooks Nest Wood, Wokingham	(5 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	-
10.	Feedback from the LAF Chairs Meeting	(5 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	-
11.	Activities of the LAF Fast Response Team	(5 mins)	Andrew Fletcher	62-64
12.	Date of next meeting	(2 mins)	Tanya Leftwich	-

MEMBERS' GUIDANCE NOTE

DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

The Localism Act 2011 makes failure by members to comply with the regulations in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs), without reasonable excuse, a criminal offence.

DPIs include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any license to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where the landlord is the relevant authority, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where
 - a) that body has a piece of business or land in the area of the relevant authority, or
 - b) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

You **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as you are aware that you have a DPI in the matter being discussed, whether or not this is in your Register of Interest. **A member with a DPI is unable to take part in discussion or vote at a meeting.** The term 'discussion' has been taken to mean a discussion by the members of the committee or other body determining the issue. A member with a DPI **may make** representations, statements or ask questions as a member of the general public can, but can not be part of the committee discussion. You should notify Democratic Services before the meeting of your intention to speak. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the meeting, it is suggested that you leave the room or at least move to the public area.

If the interest declared has not been entered on to your Register of Interests, you must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

OTHER INTERESTS

If the issue being discussed is not a DPI, but affects you more than another member of the public (either positively or negatively), or if you have a conflict of interest, then you should obtain advice from the Legal or Democratic Services Officer before participating in the meeting. You may not be able to take part in the committee discussion or vote, as this could invalidate the decision and have further legal consequences. You could still speak at the meeting if a member of the public has a right to speak on the subject.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please seek further advice from the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

30 June 2014

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Interest area
Peter Thorn	Chairman, land management
Julie Mason	Walkers, strategy
Harry Hancock	Walking, open spaces, Mid-Thames Ramblers
Councillor Beer	Walking, cycling, Old Windsor Parish Council
Councillor Majeed	RBWM Councillor, Oldfield Ward
Sara Church	Horse Riding, British Horse Society
Rachel Forsyth	National Trust
John Foulger	Walking, open spaces, public rights of way
Christine Gadd	Sunningdale Parish Council
Helen Howard	Horse Riding, Bray Parish Council
Phil Smith	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Andrew Fletcher	Local Access Forum Secretary
Tanya Leftwich	Clerk to the Forum

OBSERVERS

Annie Keene
Alan Keene
Ray Sharp

APOLOGIES

Name

Councillor John Stretton
James Copas
Margaret Cubley
Hilary Essen
Gordon Harris
Tom Jarvis
Andrew Randall
Joanne Stickland
Chris Westacott

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
30 June 2014
MINUTES**

ACTION

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions, Declarations of Interest

The Chairman **Peter Thorn** welcomed everyone to the thirtieth meeting of the Local Access Forum.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor John Stretton, James Copas, Margaret Cubley, Hilary Essen, Gordon Harris, Tom Jarvis, Andrew Randall, Joanne Stickland and Chris Westacott.

The Forum approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2013.

Matters arising from last meeting

Andrew Fletcher referred members to pages 1-4 of the agenda.

Items 1.2 & 1.3 = **Andrew Fletcher** informed the Forum that he was in the progress of making contact with colleagues within the Public Health team which was felt the most appropriate place to take the Forums health agenda forward.

2 Members' Update

Harry Hancock informed the Forum that Buckinghamshire LAF were having problems when it came to footpath maintenance on their matrix (budget). It was noted that Buckinghamshire LAF were struggling to meet targets set for footpath maintenance but were not prepared to increase timescales.

3 Membership update

General Forum membership

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that membership currently comprised of twenty-one members and welcomed **Rachel Forsyth**, the Head Ranger for the Maidenhead and Cookham commons since January 2014.

Councillor Majeed suggested that a representative from the York Stream Waterways Project be invited to join the Forum. **Andrew Fletcher** to speak to the Planning Infrastructure and Transport Policy team to find out who might be appropriate to attend or talk to the Forum regarding the Maidenhead Waterways project.

AF

LAF Fast Response Team membership

It was agreed that **Julie Mason** would join the Local Access Forum Fast Response Team.

Peter Thorn informed the Forum that one new member to represent land management interests was needed for the team to continue to function effectively as a balanced interest group.

4 Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Andrew Fletcher informed everyone that guidance on Local Access Forums state that the chairman and vice-chairman should ideally be elected from

members representing different categories of interest. It was noted that the role of the vice-chairman would be to chair meetings in the Chairman's absence and to help write and also sign letters on behalf of the Forum.

Peter Thorn was voted in as Chairman and **Julie Mason** was voted in as Vice-Chair. The nominations were unanimously agreed by the Forum who welcomed **Julie Mason** as the new vice-chairman.

The Chairman thanked **Harry Hancock** for all his support particularly with the Rapid Response Team and to the Ramblers Association, which members endorsed.

5 Improvements for cycling in Maidenhead

The Forum was referred to page 8 of the agenda.

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to inform the Forum about the accident figures for cyclists in Maidenhead over the past three years, however the agenda item was to discuss the wider topic of improvements for cycling in Maidenhead

Andrew Fletcher informed Members that **Gordon Oliver** was unable to attend the meeting to present on this item but had provided a presentation and notes for the Forum.

Andrew Fletcher gave everyone a short presentation 'Cycling in Maidenhead' which covered the strategic approach, the evidence (Maidenhead cycle count, casualty clusters, under-reporting, residents satisfaction and cycling/ sustainable travel demonstration towns), stakeholder workshop (vision and objectives, desirable features, existing infrastructure, new infrastructure) and the next steps (Local Growth Fund Bid, Capital Programme, Town Centre Redevelopment and the Maidenhead & Cox Green Neighbourhood Plan).

John Foulger explained that cyclists in Maidenhead High Street travelling in the wrong direction at speed and breaking regulations had been a problem over the past few years. **Andrew Fletcher** to highlight concerns about cyclists on footpaths in the High Street and the lack of perceived action by the Thames Valley Police to the Town Centre Managers.

AF

Andrew Fletcher to arrange a meeting with the local LAF chairs (Bucks and Slough) to exchange ideas about cycling and multi-use routes.

AF

Andrew Fletcher to report back to the LAF regarding the status of cycling facilities and crossing points along Stafferton Way Link Road.

PT

Peter Thorn to write a letter to Network Rail regarding improvement to cycle parking at Maidenhead Railway Station.

AF

Andrew Fletcher to investigate use of hire cycles being used in Slough and Reading and report back to the Forum.

AF

Andrew Fletcher to provide a copy of the Thames Path cycling policy to the Forum via the website.

AF/GO

- Andrew Fletcher / Gordon Oliver** to provide the Forum with an update on current cycling schemes in a years time (2015). **AF**
- Andrew Fletcher** to provide a response to the Forum regarding the status of Sustrans Cycle Route 50, including progress made towards the inaccessible barriers and any ongoing payments being made to the landowner.
- 6 DEFRA Consultation: Reforming access and engagement guidance**
The Forum was referred to page 70 of the agenda.
- It was noted that the purpose of this report was to inform the Forum about the current Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consultation about revised guidance for access and engagement. **Andrew Fletcher** explained that members could now make comment by way of a response.
- The Forum **agreed** to look at the following key areas:
Volunteering
Local Access Forums
Common Land
Public Rights of Way
- Peter Thorn, Julie Mason, Phil Smith and Rachel Forsyth** agreed to provide a response on behalf of the Forum. **PT, JM, PS & RF**
- 7 Horse riding and multi-use routes**
The Forum was informed that **Andrew Fletcher** had engaged with local horse riders and other local groups and had put together a list of horse riding routes that were hoped to be achieved / established.
- Andrew Fletcher** to provide the Forum with a list of current schemes being investigated regarding horse use. **AF**
- Andrew Fletcher** to contact Buckinghamshire County Council regarding multi-use routes and to show the Forums support. **AF**
- Andrew Fletcher** to contact yards around Eton Wick regarding the multi-use route at the Jubilee River. **AF**
- Andrew Fletcher** to email Parish Clerks, Parish Council Chairs and the Secretary of the District Parish Council Association regarding potential new horse riding routes and multi-use routes. **AF**
- 8 Parish Paths Initiative activities**
It was noted that the purpose of this report was to inform the Forum regarding the current Parish Path Initiative (PPI) activities currently being worked on in partnership with local Parish Councils.
- It was **agreed** that the Forum was happy to promote multi-use routes.
- Andrew Fletcher** to look into whether a route, once it became a multi-use route, **AF**

was then removed off the definitive map.

9 LAF Annual Report & Pro-forma

It was noted that the purpose of this report was to inform the Local Access Forum about the preparation of the annual report for its activities over the past year, and to seek approval for it to be published. It was noted that the purpose was also to inform the Forum about the requirements to report activities to Natural England using the prescribed pro-forma and to invite the Forum to review and approve the pro-forma.

Site visits for 2014/2015

Site visits **agreed** by the Forum:

Rooks Nest Wood in Wokingham

Andrew Fletcher to arrange a site visit with the Manager of the Park to talk about how they deal with dog issues. **AF**

Andrew Fletcher agreed to refer issues regarding cycling in Bisham Woods to the Cycle Forum. **AF**

Andrew Fletcher agreed to invite Paul Jarczewski to talk to the Forum regarding cycling and horse riding issues in Bisham Woods. **AF**

10 Development opportunities

It was noted that the report on pages 82 – 83 of the agenda (plus the maps on pages 88-111) informed the LAF about Edge of Settlement analysis work currently being undertaken by the Council, which included areas of land currently in Green Belt which were being considered for future development opportunities.

It was suggested that rural public houses might be interested in sponsoring signs for bridleways. It was suggested that the Agricultural College might also be interested in providing sponsorship.

Andrew Fletcher requested that all LAF members look at local areas marked in the report and feedback any comments including any desired routes or opportunities. **All**

An overlaid map (maps in the agenda compared with the definitive map) were available from **Andrew Fletcher** on request. **All**

It was **agreed** that this monitoring item would remain on the agenda as a standing item.

11 LAF Monitoring items

The Forum was referred to pages 112-121 of the agenda.

Thames Path ‘missing link’ at Bridge Gardens

Peter Thorn informed the Forum that he had been disappointed with the decision made at the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel on the 5th June 2014, which was echoed by **Councillor Beer**. It was noted that whilst the Chairman had been disappointed by the decision he had stated that he did believe

the roadside route offered a safe route but that the riverside route was still felt to be the long-term option and one that was preferable for LAF members.

Deregulation Bill update

Andrew Fletched informed the Forum that the Deregulation Bill was due to be passed in November.

Easy Going Routes

Andrew Fletcher agreed to contact the Access Advisory Forum regarding potential new Easy Access Routes. **AF**

Andrew Fletcher agreed to provide feedback to the Forum about how the Easy Going Routes were monitored. **AF**

Volunteer works

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that the Council was looking to get volunteers to clear the vegetation at the Hurley 29 footpath but that this task could take longer than the two days allocated to it.

Andrew Fletcher explained that Community Payback Volunteers were currently used by the Public Rights of Way team from time-to-time, and that he would be looking to meet with the Community Safety Manager to discuss future use. **AF**

Andrew Fletcher agreed to report back to the Forum as to whether the Council would be able to insure volunteers for path works. **AF**

LAF members' discussion forum

Andrew Fletcher agreed to send link to all members for the Members' discussion forum (both sites). **AF**

12 Report from the SE LAF Conference

Andrew Fletcher agreed to send information round to all members regarding the SE LAF Conference. **AF**

Andrew Fletcher explained that the conferences were open to any LAF member to attend and that expenses would be covered by the Council.

13 Activities of the LAF Fast Response Team

The Forum was referred to pages 122-124 of the agenda.

It was **agreed** that **Julie Mason** would join the Local Access Forum Fast Response Team.

Peter Thorn informed the Forum that one new member to represent land management interests was needed for the team to continue to function effectively as a balanced interest group.

14 Date of Next Meeting-

The date of the next meeting was confirmed to be Tuesday 2 December 2014 (6.30pm start in Desborough 4, Town Hall, Maidenhead).

The meeting which started at 6.30pm, ended at 9.05pm.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 2nd DECEMBER 2014

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Local Access Forum about the progress made on actions and issues arising from the Forum meeting held on 30th June 2014.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome, apologies and introductions

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
1.1	Follow up with Parish Councils regarding suggestions for new horse riding routes and multi-use routes	AF	Email sent to all Parish Councils on 22 nd July 2014.

Agenda Item 3: Membership update

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
3.1	Investigate whether a member of the Waterways Group would wish to join the LAF, or talk to the LAF regarding the Maidenhead Waterways project	AF	A member of the Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group will give a presentation to the forum on 2 nd December 2014.

Agenda Item 5: Improvements for cycling in Maidenhead

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
5.1	Contact Maidenhead Town Centre manager: How do police deal with cyclists in the high street?	AF	Thames Valley Police conduct enforcement along the High Street (by means of issuing fines) when resources allow. The Council and the Police are actively looking at options for what more can be done about this issue in the future.
5.2	Arrange meeting with the local LAF chairs (Bucks and Slough) to exchange ideas about cycling and multi-use routes	AF	A meeting was held on 26 th September 2014.
5.3	Report back to the LAF regarding the status of cycling facilities and crossing points along Stafferton Way Link Road	AF	Report sent to all LAF members by email on 31 st July 2014
5.4	Write a letter to Network Rail regarding improvement to cycle parking at Maidenhead Rail Station	PT	We have been advised by Gordon Oliver that a number of improvements are currently planned for cycle parking at Maidenhead Rail station: <i>"We are working with First Great Western, Railtrack, Crossrail, local landowners and developers to progress plans for a multi-</i>

			<p><i>modal interchange in the Station Opportunity Area, as identified in the Maidenhead Town Centre Area Action Plan. The current proposal includes provision for an improved bus interchange and taxi rank, passenger drop off facilities, disabled parking and a new cycle hub with parking for 200 – 300 cycles. The forecourt will be cleared of cars to create a new public space and gateway to the town centre. Pedestrian and cycle access will be further improved when the King Street / Queen Street junction is remodelled. It is intended that car parking will be reprovided in a new multi-storey car park in the Stafferton Way Opportunity Area. We are currently exploring funding options, but have secured provisional funding of over £6 million through the Local Enterprise Partnership.</i></p> <p><i>As an interim measure, the Council is working with FGW to upgrade of the cycle parking in the Shoppenhanger's Road arches, providing two-tier parking. This will be reused in the new cycle hub once constructed."</i></p> <p>As a result it was felt a letter from the LAF would not be required at this time.</p>
5.5	Investigate use of hire cycles being used in Reading and Slough and report back to the forum.	AF	Information received from Slough and Reading, and comments from GO. Email sent to all members on 9 th Sept 2014.
5.6	Provide a copy of the Thames Path cycling policy to the forum	AF	A copy of the cycling policy was sent to all members on 9 th July 2014.
5.7	Provide the forum with an update on current cycling schemes in a years time (2015)	AF	This has been scheduled for the June 2015 agenda.
5.8	Provide a response to the forum regarding the status of Sustrans Cycle Route 50, including progress made towards the inaccessible barriers and any	AF	Numerous attempts have been made to persuade the landowner to change the barriers and he has declined. We do not have any knowledge of ongoing payments

ongoing payments being made to the landowner.		being made to the landowner.
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Agenda Item 6: DEFRA Consultation: Reforming access and engagement guidance

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
6.1	<p>The forum decided to look at the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteering - Local Access Forums - Common Land - Public Rights of Way <p>Peter Thorn, Julie Mason, Phil Smith and Rachel Forsyth agreed to provide a response on behalf of the forum</p>	PT, JM, PS, RF	<p>After reviewing the proposed material the feedback was the question and answer approach is good.</p> <p>Further comments were where there can be a section added with a central email or contact for anyone wishing further direction.</p> <p>These comments were fed back to DEFRA via their online form on 31st July 2014.</p>

Agenda Item 7: Horse riding and multi-use routes

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
7.1	Provide the forum with a list of current schemes being investigated regarding horse use.	AF	This was sent to all members on 9 th July 2014
7.2	Contact Bucks CC regarding multi-use routes	AF	Meeting to be arranged with Multi-User Group to discuss phase 2 options, including representatives from Bucks Local Access Forum.
7.3	Contact yards around Eton Wick regarding the multi-use route at the Jubilee River	AF	Letter sent to all livery yards known in Eton / Eton Wick on 22 nd July 2014
7.4	Email Parish Clerks, Parish Council Chairs and the Secretary of the District Parish Council Association regarding potential new horse riding routes and multi-use routes	AF	Email sent to all Parish Councils on 22 nd July 2014. Parish Clerks, Chair persons (where available) and the Hon. Secretary of the RBWM District Association of Local Councils (DALC) was included.

Agenda Item 9: LAF Annual Report and Proforma

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
9.1	<p>Site visits agreed by the forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rooks Nest Wood in Wokingham <p>Arrange site visit with manager of the park to talk about how they deal with dog issues</p>	AF	A site meeting was held on 21 st October 2014.
9.2	Refer issues regarding cycling in	AF	This was discussed by the Cycle

	Bisham Woods to the cycle forum.		Forum on 9 th July 2014. The cycle forum discussed the issue on the request of the LAF and suggested that perhaps an alternative area could be made available for down hill cycling which would prevent people using Bisham Woods.
9.3	Invite Paul Jarczewski to talk to the forum regarding cycling and horse riding issues in Bisham Woods	AF	Paul Jarczewski declined to be a member but would be happy to attend as a guest where discussions may help solve issues in Bisham Woods.

Agenda Item 10: Development opportunities

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
10.1	All LAF members to look at local areas marked in the report and feedback to Andrew Fletcher any comments including and desired routes or opportunities	ALL	Responses have been received from Sara Church, Hilary Essen, Julie Mason and Rachel Forsyth. These comments have been compiled and sent to Ian Bellinger, Principal Planning Officer. The responses are included in Appendix A to this report.

Agenda Item 11: LAF Monitoring items

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
11.1	Contact the Access Advisory Forum regarding potential new Easy Access Routes.	AF	Andrew Fletcher attended the Access Advisory Forum on 14 th July 2014 to request suggestions for new Easy Access Routes.
11.2	Feedback to LAF how the Easy Going Routes are monitored	AF	Currently the Easy Going Routes are not actively monitored, but we do respond to any reports of issues along the routes
11.3	Report back to the Forum whether the Council will be able to insure volunteers for path works	AF	Response from Steve Mapple, Insurance and Risk Manager states that volunteers working for the Council will be insured by the Council: "The insurance position is that volunteers acting on behalf of the council are treated as employees. So, if there is an allegation of injury or property damage that a third party alleges is down to negligence on the part of the volunteer, insurance would operate in the event there was a legal liability"
11.4	Send link to all members for the Members' discussion forum	AF	Julie Mason sent an email to all members on 20 th July 2014.

Agenda Item 12: Report from the SE LAF Conference

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
12.1	Send information round to all members regarding the SE LAF Conference	AF	A discussion thread was opened with all presentations attached on the RBWM LAF Group Spaces site. A link was emailed to all members on 6 th October 2014.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF
Telephone: 01628 796122 **Email:** prow@rbwm.gov.uk
http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm

RBWM Local Access Forum

Consultation response: Future development opportunities for land in the Green Belt.

The Local Access Forum (LAF) has examined the Edge of Settlement analysis and the land being considered for potential development opportunities and wish to make the following comments. These comments are based on feedback from individual members after the matter was raised at the Forum meeting held on 30th June 2014:

General Comments

1. The forum would like to be kept informed at each planning stage.
2. The forum would like to request reassurance that any existing public rights of way remain undisturbed and accessible during any related planning and subsequent construction activity.
3. It has not been possible to give each area proposed a detailed consideration as to the existing open air access or rights of way network in the area. The Forum requests that it is consulted when the areas being put forward for proposed development are finalised.
4. The forum requests the opportunity to have input into the creation of new public rights of way during the initial layout and planning stages. The creation of additional paths would prove of benefit to both development partners and the local community.
5. The forum recommends that before any green belt development is considered the use of brown field sites and empty and unused industrial areas is used first. The proposed development areas should not destroy any existing public right of way.
6. It is felt that the desirability of recreational paths around the edge of housing developments would be limited.

Specific comments

7. The potential areas around the Maidenhead and Dedworth areas would create more traffic congestion on what are already very crowded streets.
8. With regard to the development opportunity area opposite Sheepphouse Road, Maidenhead, about 20 years ago residents could walk around some of the adjacent lake (gravel pit) and this is still very much missed. Could a footpath or cycle track be created that would go by the lake to link the proposed development with Summerleaze Road. It could be linked up with the Green Way

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF
Telephone: 01628 796122 **Email:** prow@rbwm.gov.uk
http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm

paths which would provide better access to the town centre, which would in turn help to reduce road traffic.

Specific response in relation to the National Trust

9. In addition to the comments above the following comments have also been submitted for inclusion by the National Trust:

The National Trust would like to submit further representations on the RBWM Preferred Options consultation to review and identify housing land in Green Belt areas. Our extensive land holdings at Cookham and Maidenhead are not directly affected. We are aware that the closest two proposed sites are at land West of Whytelady's Lane Cookham Rise (to the east of NT land at Cookham Dean and at West of Sheephouse Road Maidenhead (to the south of NT land at Widbrook Common). The detailed relation between these sites and NT interests involves distances of around 0.7 km distance. The interests of the National Trust here is to protect its own land, with a duty as such set out in National Trust legislation. We know that The National Planning Policy Framework states at its paragraph 81 that 'Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land'. Should these sites progress forward we would suggest that attention is given to the above and how the visual impact upon the wider landscape can be protected and access and biodiversity promoted, in the context of development plan policy.

The National Trust have made separate comments on land West of the A404 at Maidenhead. We are grateful for the opportunity to submit these points and would be grateful to be consulted on the next stage.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum. Local Authorities are required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW AND AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consult the Forum on the review and amendment to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 The Council's **Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan** is a strategic 10-year plan which is the prime means by which the Council will identify changes to be made with respect to the management and improvement of the local public rights of way network to give better provision for all users.

2.2 The Council is required under Section 60(3) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to make a new assessment and review the public rights of way improvement plan within 10 years of first publication, and subsequently at intervals of not more than 10 years. On such reviews, if the Council decides to amend the plan, publish it as amended and if no amendments are decided, publish a report of the decision and the reasons behind it.

2.3 The current plan runs from 2005-2015 and the Council is looking to review the assessment and publish an amended Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

2.4 The views of the Local Access Forum are requested on the following:

- Plan timescale: Should the Council continue with a 10-year plan format or choose a shorter timescale?
- Annual updates: Should we develop the updated plan to allow for annual updates to be tied in with the Milestones Statement review to make the plan more of a live document, and if so what would be the best way to do this?
- Statement of action: Are there any recommended changes to the statement of action listed in the current 2005-15 Plan (see Appendix A pages 12-24)?
- Site specific proposals: Are there any recommended changes to the Site specific proposals listed in the current 2005-15 plan (see Appendix B)?
- Suggested new leaflets: Are there any recommended new leaflets to be included for the new 2015-25 plan (see Appendix B)?
- Other suggested changes: Are there any other recommended changes to the current 2005-15 plan (see Appendix A)?

A copy of the current Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan is attached as Appendix A. Progress towards the site specific proposals, and the current leaflets is attached as Appendix B.

MAKING YOUR COMMENTS: Any comments or recommendations agreed by the Forum at it's meeting on 2nd December will be incorporated into the draft Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015-2025. If individual Forum members wish to submit their own comments, these should be made in writing by **9th January 2015**.

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

2005-2015



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Bridge at Cookham Lock (Cookham Footpath 53)

1. Introduction

1.1. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a duty on all highway authorities to produce a Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for their area.

1.2. This 10-year strategic plan is the prime means by which the Council will identify the changes to be made in respect to the management and improvement of the local public rights of way network in order to attain better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems.



View across Hurley from Honey Lane

- 1.3. In drawing up the plan, the Council is required to assess:
- the extent to which public rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
 - the opportunities provided by public rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and enjoyment;
 - the accessibility of public rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.
- 1.4. The plan sets out a statement of action that the Council will adopt for the improvement of the public rights of way network.

1.5. The process of creating the plan

Preparation

1.5.1. A programme for producing the plan was prepared in consultation with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum, an advisory body set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

1.5.2. Regular monitoring reports on the plan were submitted to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel, a Panel of Council members with overall responsibility for public rights of way in the Borough.

Information gathering

1.5.3. The needs of users and potential users of the public rights of way network were researched, as well as wider interests relating to public rights of way, current route provision and local use and demand.

1.5.4. The information gathering stage included an examination of existing policies and existing research, followed by consultation with user groups, interested parties and face-to-face interviews with the general public. In total 620 completed questionnaires were received. In addition to this, the Local Access Forum played a key role in developing ideas and providing information for the plan.

1.5.5. An initial assessment of the information was carried out, and the Council then sought views on the assessment (from March to June 2004) to identify any omissions in the research or to address any problems at an early stage.

Evaluation

1.5.6. Following this initial public consultation, conclusions were drawn regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the local public rights of way network and the adequacy of current routes and the need for new routes was considered (see section 3: Conclusions of the evaluation).

Statement of action

1.5.7. Following the evaluation stage, a statement of action was prepared (see section 4). The statement of action identifies the needs and issues, makes proposals to address these needs, and also states, in broad terms, how these proposals are to be realised.

1.5.8. The statement of action contains the following:

- the proposed actions
- estimated costs
- key organisations involved in the actions
- the estimated timescale for the actions to be completed.

Publication

1.5.9. The final stage in the production of the plan is publication:

Action	Timescale
a) The Local Access Forum was consulted on the draft plan and any agreed changes were made	7 th Sept 04
b) The draft plan was reported to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel prior to public consultation	6 th Dec 04
c) Statutory public consultation was carried out and proposed changes collated	10 th Dec 04 - 10 th March 05
d) The final plan was submitted to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel for approval	6 th June 05
e) Publication of the final plan	July 05



Horse Margin along Twyford Road

1.6. Involvement of the Local Access Forum

1.6.1. The Local Access Forum (LAF) has been closely involved in the preparation of the plan, particularly at the information gathering stage.

1.6.2. From its inception in April 2003 the LAF has been looking at what would need to be included in a 10-year plan for the Borough, and has provided advice to the Council with regards to the process, the research gathered, and also by developing working groups to examine the needs of particular groups of users.

1.6.3. In addition to this, some members of the LAF also made time for one-to-one meetings with the Public Rights of Way Officer developing the plan, in order to explain and show the needs of their particular interest area in greater detail.

1.7. Links to Council policies

1.7.1. There are a number of Council policies and strategies that are relevant to public rights of way and the countryside.

Community Strategy

1.7.2. Implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan will contribute to the five key themes and three guiding principles of the Community Strategy for the Royal Borough Partnership 2003-2013.

1.7.3. The five key themes are:

- being safe and secure
- a good place to live, work and visit
- healthy and caring
- getting about
- learning for life

1.7.4. And the guiding principles are:

- working together
- leaving no one behind
- involving people

1.7.5. The principal policy documents relevant to public rights of way are listed below:

- the annual Milestones Statement
- the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Development Framework

- the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan (Incorporating Alterations Adopted June 2003)
- the Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016
- the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Transport Plan 2001-2006

1.7.6. Work has begun on the review of the Berkshire Structure Plan and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan. The replacement plan will be in the form of a Local Development Framework as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Further information on the review can be obtained from the Council's Strategy and Plans Team.

1.7.7. In addition to this, historical plans have been examined in preparation for this document, including the Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury Plan 1981.

1.7.8. The Royal Borough is certified to the Environmental Management System ISO 14001, and the management of public rights of way is a significant activity within this system. The production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan helps to manage public rights of way activities in a responsible way in compliance with ISO 14001.



The Thames Path National Trail

2. Background to the Royal Borough

2.1. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) covers an area of approximately 200 sq. km (77 sq miles) situated to the west of London and Heathrow airport predominantly within the green belt, with a population of over 133,000. The area has a rich history, and attracts approximately seven million visitors a year, with tourism generating approximately £360 million per year.



2.2. Situated in the northern, eastern and southern areas of the Borough are the population centres of Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton, and Ascot and Sunninghill, respectively. Surrounding these areas are the satellite villages of Cookham, Bisham, Bray and Holyport, Datchet, Old Windsor and Wraysbury. The western area consists predominantly of countryside and agricultural land, and villages including White Waltham, Waltham St. Lawrence, Knowl Hill and Hurley.

2.3. The area has over 300km (186 miles) of public rights of way, and just less than 1500 acres of registered common land. The Borough also has 4800 acres of land within the popular Windsor Great Park. In addition to this, the Thames Path National Trail passes through the northern part of the Borough, running through Hurley, Bisham, Cookham, Maidenhead, Bray, Windsor and Wraysbury.

3. Conclusions of the evaluation

3.1. Although there is an extensive network of public rights of way and accessible open space in the Royal Borough, the research indicated significant deficiencies and areas for improvement.

3.2. 74% of respondents use the public rights of way network mainly for leisure, 20% use the network for both leisure and utilitarian use (getting to shops and facilities etc), and 3% of users use the paths solely for utilitarian purposes. The network is used an average of 1-5 times a month by each person, but research shows that significant amounts of people use the network over 10 times a month. The network is used mainly in the daytime and at weekends, with a rise in evening usage in the summer.

3.3. The research indicates that in general users require: increased maintenance of paths; additional routes and links, particularly to schools and facilities; removal of unnecessary barriers; better promotion and provision of information about the network; improved signage, especially on key routes; improved transport facilities; greater consideration for environmental issues; and better management of dog waste in particular areas. Some users stated that stronger enforcement action is needed in the management of public rights of way to effectively discharge the Council's duties.



3.4. A lack of information was highlighted as the main barrier to many potential users, and it is clear that increased promotion and information would encourage more use of the network.

Walking

3.5. Walking is the most popular recreational activity in the countryside, both nationally and locally, and there is a need for improved linkages between paths and routes, to create larger networks of circular routes, and to encourage more people to take advantage of the public rights of way resource. The research also highlighted a need for improved maintenance of the paths, removal of obstructions, and removal of unnecessary stiles and gates. The width of paths was a particular concern, as were links between walks, from urban areas to the country, and routes that provide a safe way of crossing roads.

3.6. Specific routes were identified in the research, particularly across and along the Thames and along other waterways in the Borough. A

requirement for routes between villages and to rail stations was identified around the villages on the eastern side of the Borough, along with a need for routes to the network from and within the urban areas of Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead.

Disabled and mobility restricted use

3.7. The two main areas for improvement are the removal of barriers on paths, and a greater degree of information and promotion to enable



people to make their own decisions in terms of suitability. The research also highlighted a need for the provision of mobility restricted routes, improvements to path surfaces to enable access to existing paths, and a need for improved transportation facilities to enable users to access the network.

Cycling

3.8. Cycling is the second most popular activity on the rights of way network and the main needs identified in the research are the provision of better information and promotion about cycling routes, and the provision of new cycling routes in the Borough. In particular it was stated that maps should be available showing routes for cyclists both in the countryside and on roads, with information about the surfaces that can be expected on particular paths.



3.9. The research also shows a need to improve the condition of shared paths and cycle tracks.

Horse riding

3.10. The research shows that about 4-5% of respondents participate in horse riding in the Borough. The most popular areas appear to be around Maidenhead, the Walthams, and Windsor. The main need for horse riders highlighted in the research was improved maintenance of existing paths, and the creation of a more 'joined up' network for horse riders. Requirements for widths of paths (specifically for turning), for appropriate furniture and also height clearances were identified.

Carriage driving

3.11. Carriage drivers account for about 2% of the responses to the consultation exercise. The research highlighted an undersupply of routes suitable for carriage drivers across the Borough, and a need for

increased maintenance of existing routes with more consideration given to the needs of carriage drivers.

Motor users

3.12. There are 8.5km of Byways Open to All Traffic in the Royal Borough. Additionally there are 27km of Roads used as Public Paths (RUPPs): however, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 will change the status of all RUPPs to restricted byways, which may affect the right of motor vehicle users to use these routes, and the maintenance liability of the Council. As such an undersupply in provision for motor users is expected. It should be noted that this reclassification is without prejudice to any question of whether the public have a proven right of way with mechanically propelled vehicles or any other right along a particular way.

3.13. The research highlighted a requirement from motor users for sufficient maintenance in order to use the paths they are lawfully able to use, but did not identify requirements for additional routes. In managing vehicular use on public rights of way, the Council will take into account the advice contained in “Making the Best of Byways”, published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in 1997.

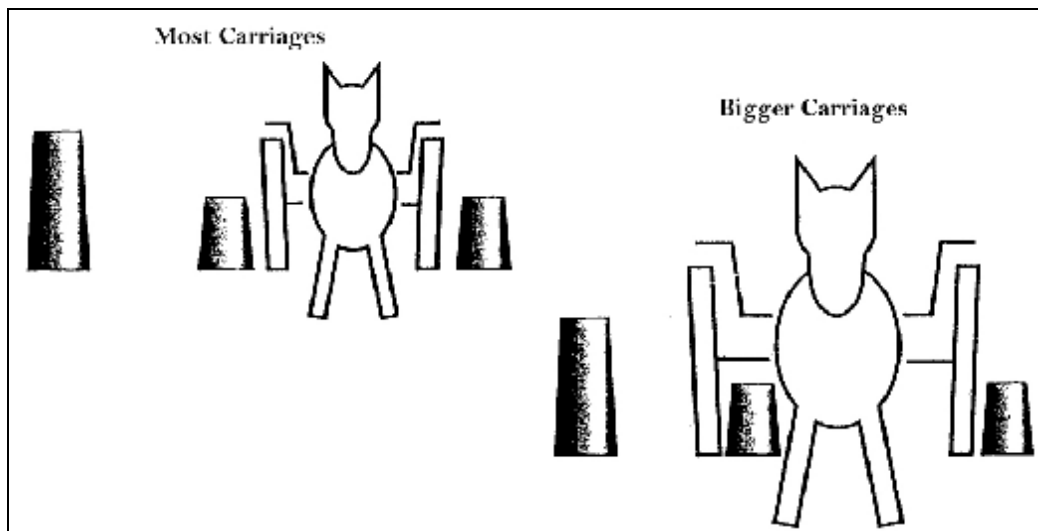


Diagram of a Kent Carriage Gap

4. The statement of action

4.1. The statement of action comprises four sections:

1. Council policies
2. Improvement of existing paths
3. Creation of new routes and links
4. Improved information and promotion

Appendix 1 contains a list of site-specific suggestions.

Glossary of abbreviations

BS	British Standard
CA	Countryside Agency
CPRE	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
L/O	Landowners and managers
NTO	National Trails Office
PPI	Parish Paths Initiative
PTC	Parish and Town Councils
RBWM	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
U/G	User groups



Sunningdale Footpath 2

4.1.1. Council policies

ID	Identified needs	Policies
1.1	<p>All users should be taken into account in the planning, management and maintenance of public rights of way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walkers • mobility restricted users • cyclists • horse riders • motorised users • carriage drivers 	<p>Ensure that the needs of all users are fully considered when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning new routes • considering and implementing network changes, status changes, and restrictions • maintaining and improving existing public rights of way <p>This will involve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a consultation with users on the details of specific schemes where appropriate (b) an impact assessment to be conducted on how needs of users are affected by changes to the network and major projects (c) compliance with British Standards on all new structures and furniture, and where possible, upon replacement of existing structures or furniture. BS 5709-2001: gaps, gates and stiles; order of preference: a) gap, b) gate, c) kissing gate, d) stile (d) undertaking annual risk assessments on promoted routes
1.2	<p>Ensure that public rights of way potentially affected by development proposals are fully considered in the development control process</p>	<p>Continue to ensure that the public rights of way team are consulted on all proposed developments potentially affecting public rights of way, and that those developments are publicly advertised in advance in accordance with Government regulations.</p> <p>This will involve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a guidance note is in circulation to development control officers setting out the consultation requirements in relation to development proposals affecting public rights of way (b) a 'public rights of way' section will be added to all development control panel reports (c) effective liaison between development control officers and the public rights of way team on the design of new pedestrian routes associated with new developments
1.3	<p>Ensure that maintenance and enforcement problems are prioritised and all are dealt with within a reasonable timetable</p>	<p>Continue to prioritise works in accordance with the criteria set out in Appendix 2, and work towards achieving the public rights of way service standards set out in Appendix 3</p>

1.4	Take into account the impact that public rights of way have on the environment and wildlife	(a) Ensure effective consultation with English Nature and the Environment Agency on proposals affecting designated areas, water courses and protected species
		(b) Ensure the protection of biodiversity and sites of nature conservation importance by consulting the Council's ecological advisor at an early stage
		(c) Maximise the use of recycled and reused materials in rights of way maintenance where practicable
		(d) Take into account landscape and nature conservation issues when considering proposed changes to and maintenance of the network
		(e) Include landscape and nature conservation information on promotional material to foster environmental awareness
		(f) Include the use of public rights of way as a means of sustainable transport in the Local Transport Plan
1.5	Improved management of dog waste on public rights of way	Work with the Borough's Environmental Health section to review the Council's policy relating to the education of dog users and the use of waste bins on public rights of way
1.6	Improved transport facilities to allow people to access the countryside	(a) Work with the Borough's Transport Team to improve public transport facilities to the countryside
		(b) Work with land managers to enhance car parking facilities in the countryside
1.7	Take into account the effect that public rights of way have on the future retention of farming and landowners	(a) Ensure effective liaison / consultation with landowners when planning works on public rights of way
		(b) Encourage landowner / land manager participation in the Local Access Forum
		(c) Investigate creation of definitive or permitted paths as part of the cross-compliance scheme established by DEFRA
1.8	Establishment of Quiet Lanes to provide useful links in the public rights of way network	(a) Develop a policy to establish Quiet Lanes in the Borough to create circular and / or continuous networks
		(b) Work with CPRE and other amenity societies, Parish Councils, and relevant Council departments to identify possible Quiet Lanes to form links in the public rights of way network and where appropriate improve linking paths
1.9	A coherent approach between neighbouring authorities towards access	Liaise with neighbouring local authorities to develop cross-boundary projects

4.1.2. Improvement of existing paths

General users

ID	Identified needs	Proposed actions	Time scale	Approx. costs (inc. installation)	Lead organisations
2.1	Increased frequency of seasonal vegetation clearance	(a) Increase frequency of cutting of paths to a minimum of 4 cuttings per year where appropriate, in line with their general usage and nature conservation interest, and to keep them well defined	2005-2015	£10,000-£50,000	RBWM
		(b) Develop an improved programme of works, allowing a longer term contract to be developed	2005-2015	£50,000+	RBWM
2.2	Improved sightlines on paths	(a) Improved maintenance of path entrances and exits to give maximum visibility of any approaching traffic, liaising with highways if required	2005-2015	£1 - £10,000	RBWM; L/O
		(b) Cut vegetation on paths to improve sightlines	2005-2015	£10,000-£50,000	RBWM
		(c) Seek to ensure new landscape planting is not close to paths and avoid use of hostile plant species	2005-2015	Existing resources	RBWM; L/O
2.3	Improved and appropriate surface conditions on paths	Carry out surface and / or drainage improvements on selected paths to meet identified needs and outcomes from risk assessments	2005-2015	Approx. £15 - £30 per linear metre	RBWM; L/O
2.4	Removal of unnecessary stiles, gates, fencing and barbed wire	(a) Seek to remove unnecessary furniture, fencing, and barbed wire posing a hazard	2005-2015	Existing resources	RBWM; L/O
		(b) Endeavour to install 'dogways' where needed and where a stile cannot be replaced	2005-2015	Up to £60 per dogway	RBWM; L/O

2.5	Destination signs on selected paths	Install 25 destination signs a year on paths leading to town centres, facilities, popular recreational areas, and to / from selected promoted routes. The signs should lead entirely to destination and not be confined to the public rights of way network	2007-2011	Up to £2,500 per annum	RBWM; PTC; L/O
2.6	Installation of crossing signs to warn drivers and / or path users where paths cross roads	Work with Borough's traffic and road safety engineers to install signs where paths cross busy roads	2005-2008	Up to £200 per sign	RBWM
2.7	Clear signposting and way-marking at all road intersections and field crossings where necessary	(a) Ensure that all waymarks and fingerposts point in correct direction across open land and fields	2005-2015	Existing resources	RBWM
		(b) Install white destination markers where paths cross fields to enable users to see destination, and maintain as necessary	2005-2015	£1 - £10,000	RBWM; L/O
2.8	Maintenance and improvement works on restricted byways giving access to residential properties	Maintain and improve restricted byways to a standard appropriate for their use	2005-2015	£50,000+	RBWM

Mobility restricted users

ID	Identified needs	Proposed actions	Time scale	Approx. costs (inc. installation)	Lead organisations
2.9	Removal of unsuitable barriers on paths, and other access improvements	(a) Develop and implement a programme to remove or replace 10 stiles, inaccessible gates and barriers a year from paths	2005-2015	Up to £400 per gate as necessary	RBWM; L/O

		(b) Remove or replace unnecessary steps on paths to enable access for mobility restricted users	2005-2015	£1 - £10,000	RBWM; L/O
		(c) Work with Borough's traffic and road safety engineers to ensure that dropped kerbs are installed where paths meet roads	2005-2015	Up to £400 per dropped kerb	RBWM

Cyclists

ID	Identified needs	Proposed actions	Time scale	Approx. costs (inc. installation)	Lead organisations
2.10	Cyclists require a good surface to ride on, and sufficient width to share the path with other users	(a) Surfaces of bridleways and restricted byways promoted for, or heavily used by, cyclists will be kept reasonably firm	2005-2015	£10,000-£50,000	RBWM
		(b) Where bridleways are shared to a high degree between horse riders and cyclists, a minimum width of 3m will be maintained where possible	2005-2015	£1 - £10,000	RBWM

Horse riders

ID	Identified needs	Proposed actions	Times cale	Approx. costs (inc. installation)	Lead organisations
2.11	Horse riders require an improved standard of maintenance with regard to widths and heights	Bridleways will be maintained to give a minimum clearance of 3m height and 3m width where possible, particularly around gates and points of exit /entry	2005-2015	£1 - £10,000	RBWM

Carriage drivers

ID	Identified needs	Proposed actions	Times cale	Approx. costs (inc. installation)	Lead organisations
2.12	An improved standard of paths (furniture, width, and entrances)	(a) Restricted byways will be maintained to a minimum clearance of 3m height and 3m width	2005-2015	£1 - £10,000	RBWM

	(b) Endeavour to resituate gates on restricted byways and byways further away from the roads to allow horses and carriages to stand safely	2005-2015	Up to £500 per gate	RBWM; L/O
	(c) Install Kent Carriage Gap barriers where appropriate	2005-2015	£1000 per installation	RBWM; L/O; U/G



Cycling alongside the Jubilee River



Carriage Driving along White Waltham RUPP 8



Horse Riders on the Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit

4.1.3. Creation of new routes and links

ID	Identified needs	Proposed actions	Time scale	Approx. costs (inc. installation)	Lead organisations
3.1	More routes to popular recreational areas	(a) Feasibility studies to be conducted for relevant routes specified in Appendix 1	2006-2015	Feasibility study costs	RBWM
		(b) Prioritise outcomes of the feasibility study and implement where possible	2006-2015	£ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; L/O; U/G
3.2	Routes to schools	Develop and maintain direct routes from residential areas to schools, in consultation with the Transport Team	2006-2015	Feasibility study + £ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; PTC; L/O; Schools
3.3	Routes should be provided to local facilities, utilities and services	(a) Develop paths to access leisure centre facilities in Windsor and Maidenhead	2007-2012	Feasibility study + £ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; U/G
		(b) Establish paths to all railway stations from residential areas	2005-2015	Feasibility study + £ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; Rail Companies; L/O
		(c) Establish paths from bus routes and railway stations to the public rights of way network	2005-2010	Feasibility study + £ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; U/G
		(d) Seek to acquire off-road routes to town centres from satellite villages	2005-2015	Feasibility study + £ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; PTC
3.4	Additional crossing points over the Thames river	A feasibility study to be conducted in relation to new routes over the Thames to link paths on both sides of the river	2006-2008	Feasibility study	RBWM; L/O; EA; PTC
3.5	New links between paths in particular between recreational routes	(a) Develop links in the network to fill gaps in access and to create circular routes	2005-2010	Feasibility study + £ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; L/O; U/G
		(b) Establish links in the public rights of way network between residential areas and the countryside and open space	2008-2015	Feasibility study + £ 10,000-£ 50,000	RBWM; U/G; L/O

		(c) Seek to develop links between promoted routes within and outside of the Borough	2007-2015	Feasibility study + £10,000-£50,000	RBWM; Neighbouring Authorities
3.6	Greater access along the waterways in the Borough	(a) Establish new routes to and along the main waterways in the Borough	2005-2015	Feasibility study + £10,000-£50,000	RBWM; L/O; EA
		(b) Review where cycling already occurs on the Thames Path National Trail with a view to formalising where appropriate	2005-2015	Feasibility Study + £1-£10,000	RBWM; L/O; NTO
3.7	More roadside links between paths	(a) Seek to provide horse margins to link selected bridleways and byways	2005-2015	Feasibility study + £10,000-£50,000	RBWM; PTC; U/G
		(b) Work with the Borough's traffic and road safety engineers to provide roadside cycling and / or walking links, for example utilising highway verges	2005-2015	Feasibility study + £10,000-£50,000	RBWM; U/G
3.8	Shared use of existing routes where appropriate	(a) Upgrade selected public footpaths to public or permitted bridleways where suitable	2005-2015	Feasibility study + £10,000-£50,000	RBWM; L/O; U/G
		(b) Upgrade suitable bridleways to restricted byways, in particular to create circular routes	2005-2015	Feasibility study + £10,000-£50,000	RBWM; L/O; U/G; CPRE
		(c) Seek to establish permitted carriage driving routes utilising suitable bridleways and tracks	2005-2015	Feasibility study	RBWM; L/O; U/G

4.1.4. Improved information and promotion

A list of published leaflets and proposed new leaflets can be found in Appendix 4

ID	Identified needs	Proposed actions	Time scale	Approx. costs	Lead organisations
4.1	<p>Additional information on opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking • horse riding • cycling • carriage driving • mobility restricted users <p>including details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • routes • distances • parking facilities • transport links • refreshment points • wildlife interest 	(a) Publish a minimum of 5 leaflets in total for walkers, horse riders, cyclists or carriage drivers	2005-2015	Approx. £1500 / £2000 per leaflet	RBWM; PTC
		(b) Audit paths to ascertain access opportunities for mobility restricted users, and publish a minimum of 4 leaflets in total showing accessible routes	2005-2015	Feasibility study + Approx. £1500 / £2000 per leaflet	RBWM; PTC; U/G
		(c) Work with the Crown Estate to promote access opportunities for mobility restricted users at Windsor Great Park	2005-2007	Possible joint funding with the Crown Estate	RBWM; Crown Estate
		(d) Work with the Crown Estate to provide improved information on access to Windsor Great Park from surrounding areas, and facilities within the Park	2005-2007	Possible joint funding with the Crown Estate	RBWM; Crown Estate
		(e) Assist and encourage Parish and Town Councils to develop new leaflets and help promote or distribute existing leaflets	2005-2015	Possible grants through PPI	RBWM; PTC
		(f) Assist and encourage user groups to develop new leaflets and help promote or distribute existing leaflets	2005-2015	Possible grants through PPI	RBWM; U/G

		(g) Provide on-site information boards on selected recreational routes	2005-2015	£500 per board	RBWM; PTC; U/G.
		(h) Work with the Council's Leisure, Cultural and Property Services Directorate and Education Directorate to increase the amount of promotional material (e.g. posters) available in leisure centres and libraries and schools	2005-2006	Existing resources	RBWM
		(i) Work with local newspapers to promote Public Rights of Way, for example through publishing local walks or rides	2006-2007	Existing resources	RBWM; local newspapers
		(j) Ensure that leaflets are available for viewing, printing and ordering on the Borough website	2005-2006	Existing resources	RBWM
4.2	Additional circular routes	(a) Develop 2 circular routes leading from the Thames Path	2006-2010	£1 - £10,000	RBWM
		(b) Promote circular routes close to residential areas to encourage casual walking	2006-2015	£1 - £10,000 Possible joint funding	RBWM; PTC; Neighbouring Authorities
4.3	Promotion of the health benefits of walking and cycling	(a) Investigate potential for establishing a Health Walks project in conjunction with the Health Authority and local doctors	2007-2010	Possible joint funding with Health Authority and / or CA	RBWM; Health Authority; CA
		(b) Promote health benefits of using public rights of way	2007-2010	Possible joint funding with Health Authority and / or CA	RBWM; Health Authority; CA

4.4	Promotion of sustainable transport benefits of walking and cycling as an alternative to using cars	Promote benefits of sustainable transport on leaflets and produce posters to encourage people to walk or cycle	2005-2015	Existing resources	RBWM
4.5	Recognition of landowner “good practice” in access management	Develop an award scheme for landowners, publishing examples of landowner “good practice” in management of public access	2006-2007	Existing resources	RBWM; L/O; U/G; Local Access Forum



Bray Footpath 28

5. Monitoring and review of the plan

5.1. Progress on the implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan will be monitored by the following means.

RBWM management of the plan

5.2. Updates on actions contained in the plan will be a standard item at monthly public rights of way team meetings, and the public rights of way team's performance indicators will be adapted to incorporate key targets taken from the plan.

Public involvement

5.3. Progress reports on actions contained in the plan will be included in 6-monthly progress reports submitted to the RBWM Local Access Forum and to the Council's Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel. (These reports can also be viewed on the Borough website).

5.4. The Council's annual Milestones Statement, which sets out and reviews the public rights of way team's work programme, will be adapted to include a progress report on Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan actions carried out in the previous year, and a forward plan setting out proposed actions for the coming year. Prior to publication of the Milestones Statement, consultations will be carried out on priorities and objectives for the coming year. The Milestones Statements will be reported to the Council's Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel, published on the Borough website and circulated to Local Councillors, Parish and Town Councils and libraries.

5.5. Project plans will be prepared for individual schemes, and where appropriate consultations undertaken with Local Access Forum members, landowners, user groups and Parish or Town Councils.

Site specific proposals

In the course of conducting research in preparing the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, many site-specific suggestions for network improvements were made.

The suggestions have been categorised as follows:

Category One

It is considered that the proposal may be achievable within the period of the Plan (i.e. 2005-2015), provided that current staffing and budgetary levels are maintained. Third party consent may also be required.

Category Two

Initial feasibility study recommended, and / or the proposal may only be achievable with additional internal or external funding. It may also require third party consent.

Category Three

No further action. Either it is considered that the project is unrealistic in the foreseeable future or the potential benefits of the proposal would not justify the likely costs that would be incurred or the proposal is outside the scope of a Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan. If there is a change in circumstances in regard to a particular proposal, then its categorisation could be reconsidered.

This is not intended to be a complete list of schemes for the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and other sites may be identified during the period of the plan that are not listed in this document.



View along Sunninghill Footpath 13



View from Winter Hill, Cookham

Category One

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)	Parish
1.1	Develop a route for cycling and horse riding under the A404 from Dungrove Hill Lane to Hurley via Hurley Lane utilising existing tunnel and track (Bisham Footpath 20) at the golf course. Seek upgrade of route through tunnel and Bisham Footpath 20 to Hurley Lane to definitive bridleway	Bisham
1.2	Secure public rights on the crossing over the Thames at Bray utilising the Summerleaze owned bridge	Bray
1.3	Create a circular route around Eton and the Boveney area for mobility restricted users	Eton
1.4	Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill	Sunningdale, Sunninghill and Ascot

Category Two

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)	Parish
2.1	Create a pedestrian link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dungrove Hill Lane	Bisham
2.2	Fill in missing links on the “Millennium Walk” from Hurley to Maidenhead Riverside / Cliveden Reach connecting to the Thames Path by securing a path from: (a) Nightingale Lane to the Green Way (b) Prospect Hill to the entrance of Temple Golf Club (c) Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path	
2.3	Divert Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael’s Path) to run along the disused Henley Road	
2.4	Create a new bridleway connecting the end of Hurley Lane with the eastern end of Bradenham Lane using existing highway land alongside the A404 northbound carriageway	
2.5	An extension of the Green Way from Hibbert Road in Braywick to the River Thames at Summerleaze Bridge to provide a traffic free route for walkers, cyclists and disabled users	Bray
2.6	New route along the Cut from Bray Wick upstream to Westleymill on the Bracknell Forest boundary	
2.7	A circular route around Bray village, and also around the old Biffa pits	
2.8	Possible improvements / extension to the Green Way and upgrading of some sections to permit use by cyclists	Various
2.9	Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) of: (a) Thames Path from Boulter’s Lock to Cookham (b) Datchet Footpath 8	

2.10	Make the Thames Path and associated paths accessible to mobility restricted users from Temple to Frog Mill via Hurley	Various
2.11	Route from Mill Lane to Odney Road, Cookham – perhaps across Odney Common	
2.12	Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.	
2.13	Creation of a path parallel to the Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook common	
2.14	Upgrade Kennel Lane (Cookham Footpath 22) to a bridleway	
2.15	Create the following paths from the 1999 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan: (a) a path from Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path (b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge (c) crossing of dry flood ditch, Town Moor, Maidenhead as part of Green Way (d) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users	Various
2.16	Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan: (a) footpath from Datchet Footpath 7 southwest around the Queen Mother Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line (b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6 (c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6 (d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of the railway line to Wraysbury Footpath 6 (e) footpath along Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Old Ferry Drive (f) footpath from northern end of Douglas Lane (at termination of Wraysbury Footpath 6) to The Green (g) footpath running from High Street car park in Wraysbury, around southern part of lakes parallel to Staines Road to Staines Road near termination of Wraysbury Footpath 4	Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury

	<p>(h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road</p> <p>(i) footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook to the Horton Parish Boundary</p> <p>(j) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the eastern bank of the Colne Brook.</p> <p>(k) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3)</p> <p>(l) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury</p> <p>(m) footpath from Horton Footpath 4 to Horton Road</p> <p>(n) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370)</p>	Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury
2.17	Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet	
2.18	Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock	Eton, etc
2.19	Upgrade Jubilee River paths to allow horse riding	
2.20	A crossing over the Thames across Hurley Lock and weirs	Hurley
2.21	Secure a continuation of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the river bank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens	Maidenhead
2.22	A footbridge from Boulter's Island to east bank of the Thames, which would link the Thames Path and Jubilee River, and the walks in Taplow	
2.23	Create a link between Braywick Park and Bray Road and Maidenhead Footpath 1	
2.24	Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route	
2.25	Create a path from Ascot station westwards parallel to the railway line to Kings Ride	Sunninghill and Ascot
2.26	Work with Wokingham DC to upgrade Waltham St. Lawrence Footpath 9 / Ruscombe Footpath 4 for horse riding use	Waltham St Lawrence
2.27	Create of a path from Great Wood, White Waltham, south of the B3024 road to the track at Pond Wood Farm	White Waltham
2.28	Establish a new path from Windmills (White Waltham Footpath 20) to Howe Lane near Howlane Bridge	
2.29	Create a route for carriage drivers from Beenhams Road in White Waltham to Mare Lane in Binfield.	
2.30	Create of a path between Sutherland Grange public open space, via the rear of the Centrica complex, and the access road to the Racecourse Marina	Windsor
2.31	New route along the Colne Brook	Wraysbury

Category Three

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)	Parish
3.1	Crossings over the Thames to link villages /settlements on either bank with paths on the other, and to link isolated bits of the old towpath	Various
3.2	Upgrading Thames Path to allow cyclists to share route	
3.3	Crossings over the Thames: (a) from Hythe End to south bank avoiding M25 (b) from Magna Carta Island to north bank (c) from Wraysbury riverside to Old Windsor (d) from Ham Island to Sunnymeads (e) from Datchet centre to Home Park (f) from north side of Eton to south bank (g) from Windsor near Slough railway bridge to north bank (h) from west side of Windsor (A308) to north bank (i) from Bray village to east bank (j) from west bank to southern tip of National Trust Cliveden Park (k) upstream of Maidenhead where towpath crosses to Bucks bank (l) near Cookham Lock where towpath crosses back again (m) from south side of Cookham bridge to towpath on Lock Cut (n) from Spade Oak Farm to south bank (o) downstream of A404 bridge (p) at Bisham Church (q) from south bank to Medmenham	Various
3.4	A riverside path should be created in parallel to the Thames Path on the opposite side of the river	
3.5	Direct crossings over/under the M4 avoiding the use of road bridges	Various
3.6	A route from Bray to Windsor, past Bray Film Studios	
3.7	Thames side paths: (a) north bank upstream of Staines and downstream of Wraysbury (b) along the banks of Ham Island (c) south bank of Thames from Home Park (d) along the shores of the big islands downstream of Cookham (e) south bank between Bisham and Temple	Windsor
3.8	Secure a Public Right of Way or permitted link at end of Bridleway 11a Windsor, and a new footway along Winkfield Road to create a circular walk	

Statement of priorities for dealing with public rights of way maintenance and enforcement problems

Maintenance and enforcement problems will be prioritised on the basis of the following factors:

- Safety of users
- Level of usage
- Extent of obstruction of definitive line (i.e. completely obstructed or partially obstructed)
- Benefit to public once resolved
- Cost / time effectiveness in resolving problem
- Number / level of complaints
- Potential for deterioration of the problem

Note: For efficient working practice, lower priority problems will be dealt with alongside higher priority problems where appropriate, for example if they are in the same locality or involve the same landowner. Lower priority problems will also be tackled as required in order to meet specific targets.

Service standards 2005-2006

The service standards are subject to annual review

The service

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has the following key aims in relation to public rights of way:

- To ensure that the borough's public rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised
- To ensure that public rights of way are safeguarded and enhanced
- To help landowners and users to understand their responsibilities and rights
- To consult and work with interested parties to achieve the provision of a well-maintained and signed network of public rights of way

The Borough's Engineering and Transport Unit manages these services. For information on the public rights of way service, please call the Engineering and Transport Unit Customer Services helpline on 01628 796358

Service standards

We will:

Liaise with and involve:

- Local Access Forum
- Parish and Town Councils
- Countryside Agency
- Ramblers' Association
- British Horse Society
- British Driving Society
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Sustrans
- English Nature
- Vehicle User Groups
- National Farmers' Union
- Country Land & Business Association
- Thames Path Management Group
- Any other interested parties

Carry out:

- A condition survey of each path every three years, based on a rolling programme of six-monthly surveys (in partnership with East Berks Ramblers' Association)
- An inspection of rights of way in a dangerous condition within one working day of notification and we will inform the correspondents of the results within three working days

Use our powers:

- to enforce and remove any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, and enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) within 6 weeks of inspection
- to process uncontested applications for Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders (claims) within 1 year of receipt
- to make legal event Modification Orders within 6 months of the confirmation of the legal event
- to inform the correspondents of the reasons for any delay beyond the periods stated above

Publish:

- the definitive map and statement every five years
- information leaflets and updates regularly

Current and suggested new leaflets

Leaflets currently available

- **Public Rights of Way Information Booklet – 2004 Edition**
This booklet provides general information about public rights of way, including information about our rights and responsibilities, definitions and jargon, Council aims, and useful contacts including both Council contacts and local and national interest groups.
- **Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit**
The Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit is an undulating 33km (20 mile) signposted horse-riding route passing through the parishes of Hurley, White Waltham, Shottesbrooke and Waltham St. Lawrence. This leaflet contains information about the route, including information about refreshment areas and sites of particular interest. It also contains riding and route safety tips and parking information.
- **Ascot and Sunninghill Circular Walks**
This leaflet sets out 4 circular walking routes in Ascot and Sunninghill. The routes range from simple walks of 1.5 and 2.5 miles, ideal for those who want shorter walks or exercise, to longer routes of more than 4 miles. They take you through a variety of landscapes in Ascot and Sunninghill including quiet residential roads, small deciduous woodlands, and coniferous plantations. They also pass sites that reflect the local history of the area such as churches, historic parkland, and Ascot racecourse. The leaflet provides a detailed description of the route and sites of particular interest.
- **The Green Way Walks**
The Green Way forms a waterside corridor from Cookham, through the centre of Maidenhead, to Bray. It provides a great opportunity for visitors to explore the diverse local landscape of farmland, park, village and town. This leaflet sets out information on the route of the Green Way and its features of interest, enabling visitors to explore the network of paths for short strolls, circular walks or longer rambles.
- **A Walk Along Maidenhead Riverside**
This leaflet details a walk taking about 1.5 hours and commencing from the free public car park at the Guards Club Park on Oldfield Road, and follows the route of the Thames Path for part of the way. The leaflet provides detailed information about the route, along with details of landmarks and historical facts about the area.

Suggested new leaflets

- A circular horse riding route around Cookham.
- A leaflet detailing walking and cycling opportunities in Eton Wick, to Slough and the Jubilee River.
- A route around the Parish of Waltham St Lawrence.
- A circular walk around the parish of Cox Green (based on the original walks devised by the former Berkshire County Council).
- A Knowl Hill walking circuit (based on the original walks devised by the former Berkshire County Council).

Site specific proposals

In the course of conducting research in preparing the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, many site-specific suggestions for network improvements were made. The suggestions have been categorised as follows:

Category One

It is considered that the proposal may be achievable within the period of the Plan (i.e. 2005-2015), provided that current staffing and budgetary levels are maintained. Third party consent may also be required.

Category Two

Initial feasibility study recommended, and/or the proposal may only be achievable with additional internal or external funding. It may also require third party consent.

Note: This is not intended to be a complete list of schemes for the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and other schemes may be identified during the period of the plan that were not listed in the document approved in 2005. The proposals **shown in bold** are currently being investigated by the public rights of way team.

Updates are *shown in italics*.

Category One

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)	Parish
1.1	Develop a route for cycling and horse riding under the A404 from Dungrove Hill Lane to Hurley via Hurley Lane utilising existing tunnel and track (Bisham Footpath 20) at the golf course. Seek upgrade of route through tunnel and Bisham Footpath 20 to Hurley Lane to definitive bridleway. <i>(March 2009 update: the tunnel under the A404, and Bisham FP 20, have been upgraded to permitted bridleway)</i>	Bisham
1.2	Secure public rights on the crossing over the Thames at Bray utilising the Summerleaze owned bridge: <i>(March 2012 update) surface improvements carried out to the paths either side of Summerleaze bridge in conjunction with improved access to Eton-Dorney Lake for the 2012 Olympics.</i>	Bray
1.3	Create a circular route around Eton and the Boveney area for mobility restricted users <i>(March 2012 update): surface improvements carried out to paths in this area in conjunction with access to Eton-Dorney Lake for the 2012 Olympics, facilitating use by mobility restricted users.</i>	Eton
1.4	Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill <i>(March 2009 update: feasibility studies have indicated that this project is not viable)</i>	Sunningdale, Sunninghill and Ascot

Category Two:		
Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)	Parish
2.1	<p>Create a pedestrian link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dugrove Hill Lane:</p> <p><i>(March 2013 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: ongoing discussions with horse riders)</i></p>	Bisham
2.2	<p>Fill in missing links on the “Millennium Walk” from Hurley to Maidenhead Riverside / Cliveden Reach connecting to the Thames Path by securing a path from:</p> <p>(a) Nightingale Lane to the Green Way</p> <p>(b) Prospect Hill to the entrance of Temple Golf Club</p> <p><i>(March 2012 update): New permitted footpath opened across BCA land and associated highway safety works undertaken.</i></p> <p>(c) Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path</p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update): the landowners have declined to agree the creation of a new footpath across this land; however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>	Cookham/ Maidenhead
2.3	Divert Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael’s Path) to run along the disused Henley Road	Bisham
2.4	<p>Create a new bridleway connecting the end of Hurley Lane with the eastern end of Bradenham Lane using existing highway land alongside the A404 northbound carriageway:</p> <p><i>(March 2007 update: Initial feasibility studies and consultations have indicated that the potential benefits of this project would not justify the cost)</i></p>	Bisham
2.5	An extension of the Green Way from Hibbert Road in Braywick to the River Thames at Summerleaze Bridge to provide a traffic free route for walkers, cyclists and disabled users.	Bray
2.6	New route along the Cut from Bray Wick upstream to Westleymill on the Bracknell Forest boundary	
2.7	A circular route around Bray village, and also around the old Biffa pits	

2.8	<p>Possible improvements / extension to the Green Way and upgrading of some sections to permit use by cyclists</p> <p><i>(March 2010 update: surface improvements completed on Maidenhead FP 84, Ray Mill Road West to Town Moor.</i></p> <p><i>(March 2013 update): new off-road link opened north of Ray Mill Road West.</i></p>	<p>Various</p> <p>Maidenhead</p>
2.9	<p>Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) of:</p> <p>(a) Thames Path from Boulter’s Lock to Cookham</p> <p><i>(March 2010 update: river bank repairs, erosion control and path reinstatement works completed)</i></p> <p>(b) Datchet Footpath 8</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: handrails installed by landowner in 2008</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update: discussion with landowner about potential for widening the footpath)</i></p>	<p>Cookham</p> <p>Datchet</p>
2.10	<p>Make the Thames Path and associated paths accessible to mobility restricted users from Temple to Frogmill via Hurley</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: surface upgrade completed at Bisham FP 21)</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update replacement of stepped bridge west of Hurley Lock being investigated)</i></p>	Bisham & Hurley
2.11	<p>Route from Mill Lane to Odney Road, Cookham – perhaps across Odney Common</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>	Cookham
2.12	<p>Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.</p>	Cookham
2.13	<p>Creation of a path parallel to the Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook common</p>	
2.14	<p>Upgrade Kennel Lane (Cookham Footpath 22) to a bridleway</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: one of the affected landowners has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath to bridleway: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>	

2.15	<p>Create the following paths from the 1999 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan:</p> <p>(a) a path from Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path (<i>see 2.2 c. above</i>)</p> <p>(b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge</p> <p>(c) a crossing of dry flood ditch, Town Moor, Maidenhead as part of Green Way</p> <p>(d) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users</p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update: stepped-footbridge at Strand Water replaced with step-free accessible footbridge)</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update: steps south of Chapel Arches being replaced with a ramp, in association with re-development at former cinema site)</i></p>	<p>Cookham/ Maidenhead</p> <p>Bray</p> <p>Maidenhead</p> <p>Cookham</p> <p>Maidenhead</p>
2.16	<p>Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan:</p> <p>(a) footpath from Datchet Footpath 7 southwest around the Queen Mother Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line</p> <p>(b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of the railway line to Wraysbury Footpath 6</p> <p>(e) footpath along Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Old Ferry Drive</p> <p>(f) footpath from northern end of Douglas Lane (at termination of Wraysbury Footpath 6) to The Green</p> <p>(g) footpath running from High Street car park in Wraysbury, around southern part of lakes parallel to Staines Road to Staines Road near termination of Wraysbury Footpath 4</p>	<p>Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury</p>

	<p>(h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road</p> <p>(i) footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook to the Horton Parish Boundary</p> <p>(j) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the western bank of the Colne Brook.</p> <p>(k) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3)</p> <p>(l) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury</p> <p>(m) footpath from Horton Bridleway 4 to Horton Road</p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: new bridleway constructed and in use)</i></p> <p>(n) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370)</p>	<p>Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury</p> <p>Horton</p>
2.17	<p>Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet</p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: discussions held with the landowner on a proposal to create a circular path around the perimeter of the Queen Mother Reservoir, project abandoned as landowner unwilling to proceed)</i></p>	Datchet
2.18	<p>Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: potential surface improvements at St Georges Lane being investigated)</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update: surface improvements carried out at St Georges Lane)</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update replacement of stepped bridge west of Hurley Lock being investigated)</i></p>	<p>Sunninghill</p> <p>Hurley</p>
2.19	<p>Upgrade Jubilee River paths to allow horse riding</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: horse riding permitted on some sections of Jubilee River Paths, for trial period May 2013-May2014)</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update: trial period extended until 2015)</i></p>	Eton
2.20	A crossing over the Thames across Hurley Lock and weirs	Hurley

2.21	<p>Secure a continuation of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the river bank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens</p> <p><i>(March 2010 update: the footpath opposite the Thames Hotel was extended in 2007, however a gap of approximately 30m remains in order to complete the link to Bridge Gardens)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: funding options for completing the remaining section of missing link are being explored in discussion with the Ramblers)</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update: Path Creation Agreement/Order, options being considered)</i></p>	Maidenhead Maidenhead
2.22	<p>A footbridge from Boulter's Island to east bank of the Thames, which would link the Thames Path and Jubilee River, and the walks in Taplow</p> <p><i>(March 2013 update: a new footbridge across the Thames at Boulter's Lock is included in a Draft Development Brief for the Mill Lane, Taplow site produced by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(Dec 2014 update: a new footbridge is proposed across the Thames, in association with re-development proposals at Mill Lane, Taplow)</i></p>	
2.23	Create a link between Braywick Park and Bray Road and Maidenhead Footpath 1	
2.24	<p>(a) Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route</p> <p>(b) <i>March 2009 addition: Reinstate the definitive width of Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead FP 30) to provide segregated route for cyclists</i></p>	
2.25	<p>Create a path from Ascot station westwards parallel to the railway line to Kings Ride.</p> <p><i>(March 2007 update: Network Rail is unwilling to consider this proposed footpath creation)</i></p>	Sunninghill and Ascot
2.26	Work with Wokingham DC to upgrade Waltham St. Lawrence Footpath 9 / Ruscombe Footpath 4 for horse riding use	Waltham St Lawrence
2.27	Create of a path from Great Wood, White Waltham, south of the B3024 road to the track at Pond Wood Farm	White Waltham
2.28	Establish a new path from Windmills (White Waltham Footpath 20) to Howe Lane near Howlane Bridge	
2.29	Create a route for carriage drivers from Beenhams Road in White Waltham to Mare Lane in Binfield.	
2.30	Create of a path between Sutherland Grange public open space, via the rear of the Centrica complex, and the access road to the	Windsor

	Racecourse Marina	
2.31	New route along the Colne Brook	Horton
2.32	[Added 10/1/2007] Divert Hurley Footpath 47 and Hurley Footpath 49 to improve A4 Road Crossings. <i>(March 2009 update: The suggested diversions have not been progressed as the proposed diverted routes of the footpaths are across common land with existing public access rights).</i>	Hurley

CURRENT LEAFLETS

- **Public Rights of Way Information Booklet (for landowners and path users)**
This booklet provides general information about public rights of way, including information about user, land owner and Council rights and responsibilities, information about claims, diversions and closures to public rights of way, Council aims and useful contacts including both Council contacts and local and national interest groups.
- **Public Rights of Way and your Gardens, Hedges and Trees (for landowners)**
This leaflet provides information about the responsibilities for homeowners and those who own land adjacent to public rights of way. The leaflet stresses the need for homeowners to ensure that their shrubs and vegetation do not cause obstruction by overhanging the pathway - and includes the need to remove all cuttings from paths when pruning hedges.
- **Ploughing, crops and paths: A practical guide (for farmers)**
This leaflet is designed to assist landowners, farm managers and agricultural contractors. It explains the legal requirement to keep public rights of way open and available after ploughing and cropping. If followed, these guidelines will help prevent damage to crops and help create a good impression of the agricultural community with the public.
- **The Green Way (promoted route)**
This leaflet sets out information on the route of the Green Way and its features of interest, enabling visitors to explore the network of paths for short strolls, circular walks or longer rambles. With links to the Thames Path National Trail also possible, there are more than 19km of paths along and around the Green Way to enjoy.
- **Ascot and Sunninghill Circular Walks (promoted route)**
This leaflet sets out 4 circular walking routes in Ascot and Sunninghill. The routes range from simple walks of 1.5 and 2.5 miles, ideal for those who want shorter walks or exercise; to longer routes of more than 4 miles. They take you through a variety of landscapes in Ascot and Sunninghill including quiet residential roads, small deciduous woodlands, and coniferous plantations. They also pass sites that reflect the local history of the area such as churches, historic parkland, and Ascot racecourse.
- **Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit (promoted route)**
The Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit is an undulating 33km (20 mile) signposted horse-riding route passing through the parishes of Hurley, White Waltham, Shottesbrooke and Waltham St. Lawrence. This leaflets contains information about the route, including information

about refreshment areas and sites of particular interest. It also contains riding and route safety tips and parking information.

- **Cookham Bridleway Circuit (promoted route)**

The Cookham Bridleway Circuit is an undulating 18km (11 mile) signposted horse-riding route, principally within the parish of Cookham. A small section lies within the Bisham parish. The circuit is made up of public bridleways, roads used as public paths (RUPPs), permitted bridleways across National Trust, Woodland Trust and private land, and country lanes. This leaflet contains information about the route, including information about refreshment areas and sites of particular interest. It also contains riding and route safety tips.

- **Cookham Easy Going Route (promoted route)**

This leaflet details the easy going route around Cookham Village and along parts of the Thames Path National Trail. This is a very pleasant route year-round, and one of the prettiest in the whole of the Thames Valley. The majority of the route is flat, and the surface is mainly either grass or tarmac. Additional information, including a 'walkthrough' of the route containing pictures of the many sights, furniture and surfaces that you will encounter whilst using the route is available in the Cookham Easy Going Route page.

- **Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route (promoted route)**

This leaflet details the easy going route around the Windsor Great Park. This route takes in some of the best features of this magnificent estate and serves as an excellent introduction to the park. Open all year round, the route is almost entirely composed of quiet roads and surfaced paths with an option of a more natural surfaced route in places. Additional information, including a 'walkthrough' of the route containing pictures of the many sights, furniture and surfaces that you will encounter whilst using the route is available in the Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route page.

- **The Millennium Walk (promoted route)**

The Millennium Walk runs from Hurley to Maidenhead riverside. This walk is a joint project between Maidenhead Civic Society and East Berks Ramblers and connects at each end with the Thames Path National Trail. A footpath link, shown between the Millennium Route and Marlow, provides two additional circular walks using the Thames Path. This leaflet aims to help walkers follow the route and enjoy the heritage, vistas and wildlife along the way.

- **The Maidenhead Boundary Walk (promoted route)**

The Maidenhead Boundary Walk is based on an ancient custom called Beating the Bounds. Its roots go back to mediaeval times when parishes reaffirmed their boundaries by processing round them at Rogationtide, stopping to beat each boundary mark with wands and to pray for protection and blessings for the land.

Today Maidenhead has expanded outside the old boundaries of the town, but you can still find the old boundary stones and this is the route that is used for the Rotary Club of Maidenhead's annual Charity Boundary Walk. This map was produced by the Rotary Club of Maidenhead.

- **Cycling in Windsor and Maidenhead**

The latest version of the Royal Borough Cycle Map represents a significant improvement over previous versions. Rather than just showing dedicated cycle routes, the map grades

every road in the borough according to traffic conditions and the degree of skill and experience needed for cycling.

NATURE IN PARKS LEAFLETS

- **Braywick Park Trail**
This trail takes you around a Local Nature Reserve as well as other features in the Park.
Braywick Park Trail Information
- **Braywick Tree Trail**
Many interesting trees grow within the grounds of Braywick Park. Some of them were planted to decorate the gardens of Braywick Lodge, a large house which used to stand where the car park is today. These trees were introduced from different countries around the world over many hundreds of years. This leaflet describes a short walk around part of the park and gives information on 12 species of tree that you can find there.
- **Braywick Tree Trail Leaflet**
These leaflet maps and describes a walking route of about 2.75 miles along the River Thames in Maidenhead, highlighting the historical aspects of the riverside.
- **Maidenhead Riverside Walks**
- **Desborough and Ockwells Walks**
- **Ockwells Park Nature Trail**
Ockwells Park is approximately 44 acres of open space, just west of Maidenhead in Cox Green. Two trails are illustrated in this leaflet, allowing visitors to explore the different habitats around the park.
- **Windsor and Eton Walks**
- **Dedworth and Windsor Walks**
- **Maidenhead and Surroundings Walks**

OTHER BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Parish Council publications

Sunningdale, Bray and Datchet Parish Councils have produced their own walks leaflets, with help from the Borough Council through the Parish Paths Initiative. These leaflets are available from the Parish Councils free of charge and can be downloaded below.

- **Walk, discover, enjoy - your Sunningdale (parish path map)**
- **Bray Parish Millennium Rights of Way Map (parish path map)**
(Currently available from the Parish Council directly)
- **Holyport Health Walk (promoted route)**

This leaflet details a guided walk around the picturesque village of Holyport within the parish of Bray. The route is 1.7 miles in total and is likely to take half an hour to complete at a brisk walking pace. The walk is flat with no stiles or gates, although there is a bridge between footpath 30, an bridleway 29, and a narrow gap at the Moneyrow Green end of footpath 30.

- **Foot and Cycle Paths in and around Datchet (promoted route)**

This leaflet details the footpaths and cycle tracks available for use in and around the parish of Datchet, as well as a brief history of Datchet. The leaflet contains a map of public rights of way within the parish, as well as information about the countryside code, parking and links to other routes.

- **Waltham St Lawrence Parish Paths and Circular Walk (parish path map and promoted route)**

This leaflet details all the Public Rights of Way in the Parish as well as including a guided walk around the village of Waltham St Lawrence, including notes on some of the buildings and landmarks that you will see on the walk.

- **White Waltham Parish and Paths (parish path map)**

This leaflet details all the Public Rights of Way in the Parish along with Parish information and history, and information about various landmarks around the Parish.

- **The Thames Path National Trail**

Natural England promotes the Thames Path as one of 15 National Trails in England and Wales. The Trail passes through Hurley, Cookham, Maidenhead, Eton, Windsor, Datchet and Old Windsor. In places the trail crosses the Thames to follow the Buckinghamshire side of the river.

- **Jubilee River**

The Environment Agency has published a leaflet showing the paths along the Jubilee River. This is available from the Visit Thames website

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT MILESTONES STATEMENT & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2015/16

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consult the Forum on the priorities, targets and service standards to be included in the Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2015/16.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council produces a **Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review**, which sets out priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year, and reviews progress made in the previous year. The Statement also includes an update on progress with implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005/2015.
- 2.2 The Milestones Statement helps guide the work of the Council's Public Rights of Way Team, ensures that available resources are directed towards agreed objectives and priorities, and enables effective monitoring of progress.
- 2.3 The Milestones Statement is scheduled to be submitted to the Council's Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel on **3rd March 2015**, prior to publication in April 2015. The published Milestones Statement will then be circulated to all members of the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel, Parish Councils, Local Access Forum members and others with an interest in the public rights of way network, and will also be available in public libraries and Council offices, and will be published on the Borough website.
- 2.4 The views of the Local Access Forum are requested on the following:
- Priorities for 2015/16: Are there any recommended changes to the priorities listed in the current 2013/14 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?
 - Milestones Targets for 2015/16: Are there any recommended changes to the Milestones Targets listed in the current 2013/14 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?
 - Service Standards for 2015/16: Are there any recommended changes to the Service Standards listed in the 2014/15 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?

Progress towards the Milestones Targets in the current year (up to 1st Dec 2014) is set out in Appendix B (*to be tabled at the meeting*) and could be used as a guide to setting the targets for 2015/16.

MAKING YOUR COMMENTS: Any comments or recommendations agreed by the Forum at its meeting on 2nd December will be incorporated into a report to the March 2014 Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel as "Local Access Forum comments or recommendations". If individual Forum members wish to submit their own comments, these should be made in writing by **9th January 2015**, for inclusion in the Panel report as individual comments.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 2nd DEC 2014

AGENDA ITEM 5 - APPENDIX A

2.1 *Priorities for 2014/15*

- Maintenance and enforcement: bring all public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- Encourage and support the involvement of volunteers in the maintenance and improvement of public rights of way.
- Equality of service: ensuring that the needs of all users, regardless of race, disability, sexuality, age and religion, are taken into account.
- Ensure that the Thames Path National Trail is consistently safe and easy to use by all members of the public.
- Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk.
- Partnership working: working with all interested parties in the management of public rights of way, (e.g. Local Access Forum, Parish Councils, Civic Societies, residents associations, user groups and landowners)
- Claims: reduce the backlog of applications to add to or amend the Definitive Map.
- Changes to the network: seek improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- Improvements: seek improvements to the network for horse riders and people with restricted mobility.
- Ensure effective early consultation with interested parties on proposed changes to the network, in accordance with government regulations, circulars and codes of practice.
- Liaise with landowners and occupiers on all public rights of way matters, including updating and advising landowners on changes in legislation.
- Maximise the use of recycled and reused materials in rights of way maintenance where practicable.
- Develop and enhance the information available online for public rights of way, including the use of social media where appropriate.

2.2 *Milestones Targets for 2014/15*

Well Maintained

WM 1: To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is the former Best Value Performance Indicator for public rights of way). Target for 2014/15 is **95%**.

WM 2: To carry out major surface improvements/vegetation clearance on **10** public rights of way.

WM 3: To repair or replace **5** bridges.

Legally Defined

LD 1: To actively progress a minimum of 4 applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map, including resolving significant errors in the map.

Well Publicised

WP 1: To produce **1** leaflet publicising access opportunities for people with special needs.

WP 2: To assist others to produce effective promotional material. Target: a minimum of **1** new publication.

Improving Access and Connectivity

AC 1: Create **1** new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network

AC2: To make **15** physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.

Enforcement

EN 1: To resolve **30** enforcement issues.

Service standards

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has the following key aims in relation to public rights of way:

- To ensure that the borough's public rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised
- To ensure that public rights of way are safeguarded and enhanced
- To help landowners and users to understand their responsibilities and rights
- To consult and work with interested parties to achieve the provision of a well-maintained and signed network of public rights of way

We will liaise with and involve:

- Local Access Forum
- Parish and Town Councils
- Natural England
- East Berks Ramblers
- Disabled Ramblers
- British Horse Society
- British Driving Society
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Sustrans
- Vehicle User Groups
- National Farmers' Union
- Country Land & Business Association
- Thames Path Management Group
- Any other interested parties

Comply with **British Standards** on all new structures and furniture, and where possible, upon replacement of existing structures or furniture. BS 5709-2006 gaps, gates and stiles; order of preference; a) gap, b) gate, c) kissing gate, d) stile.

Barbed wire, razor wire, farm type electrical fences and suchlike should not normally be used in the vicinity of structures covered by this standard, but where these wires are necessary then assessment should be made of the effect they have on the safety and convenience of people in the vicinity.

A condensed version of BS 5709-2006 produced by the Pitcroft Trust is available on request from the public rights of way team.

Carry out:

- A condition survey of each path every three years, based on a rolling programme of six-monthly surveys (in partnership with East Berks Ramblers Association).
- An inspection of rights of way in a dangerous condition within one working day of notification, make safe within one working day of inspection, and inform correspondents of the results within three working days.

Use our powers:

- To enforce and remove any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, and enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) within 6 weeks of inspection, and give consideration to all available statutory powers including prosecutions where appropriate.
- To process uncontested applications for Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders (claims) within 1 year of receipt.
- To inform the correspondents of the reasons for any delay beyond the periods stated above.

Publish:

- The definitive map and statement every five years (note: the current Definitive Map was published in 2008)
- Information leaflets and updates regularly

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 2 DECEMBER 2014

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MONITORING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the forum about the status of projects on the LAF regular monitoring list and to seek the forums advice regarding the members' discussion forum.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

(a) Thames Paths 'missing link' at Bridge Gardens

A decision has been taken not to pursue any further the provision of car parking at Bridge Gardens.

Investigations are continuing into options to improve this section of the Thames Path.

(b) Deregulation Bill update

The Deregulation Bill is currently at the committee stage of the House of Lords, where a wide range of amendments have been proposed. Once it has passed through the committee stage it will go through a third reading in the House of Lords, and if amended, the bill will pass back to the House of Commons for further scrutiny.

(c) Easy Going Routes

At present no further Easy Going Routes have been planned. Discussions are ongoing with the Access Advisory Forum to request guidance as to the general areas that should be focused on.

(d) Volunteer works

The Council continues to engage and work with volunteer groups. The public rights of way team work mainly with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and the Community Payback Scheme (CPS), but do seek to work with other volunteer groups where possible.

Since June 2014 works have been conducted by the TCV over 2 days to undertake major vegetation clearance and to construct a boardwalk along Hurley Footpath 29. Further works are intended for 2015 pending a successful grant application as has happened in previous years.

In addition to this the Pinkneys Green Scouts undertook clearance and way-marking work in Maidenhead Thicket on 4th July 2014. This work contributed towards their Community Badges. It is hoped that this trial project will lead to a further opportunities to work with other Scout groups in the area however no further works have been scheduled at present.

(e) LAF members' discussion forum

The LAF online forum is found at <http://groupspaces.com/rbwm-laf/>. This forum is designed to facilitate communication and discussion between the forum members in between the formal meetings and forum members are encouraged to contribute and be engaged with the site.

Currently the forum is heavily dependent on officer support to operate but it is hoped that the LAF online forum will help the forum to become more active and independent.

Engagement amongst forum members still appears to be very low. The forum's opinion and advice is sought as to how to take this forward and how best to facilitate discussion and interaction between members in between formal LAF meeting dates.

CURRENT LEGAL ORDERS

DECISION ITEM

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Forum about legal orders currently being progressed by the Council.

2. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

2.1 The Council is currently progressing the following Legal Orders and Traffic Regulation Orders

- **Bray Restricted Byway 60**

Following an application by the landowner of the Restricted Byway the Council is progressing a proposed Extinguishment Order and Definitive Map Modification Order along the restricted byway.

The effect of the Extinguishment Order, if made and confirmed, will be to extinguish a part of the restricted byway which runs in a loop through the private grounds of the property. As part of the proposal the existing width of the remaining restricted byway (which ranges from 3.7m to 11.6m) will be recorded in the Definitive Statement which will ensure that it is protected from any encroachment. This width is sufficient to allow users to turn round at the top, negating the need to use the loop.

Informal consultations with LAF Fast Response Team, ward members, user groups and the Parish Council have been supportive of the proposal, and the application is due to be considered by the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 15th December 2014. Draft order plans showing the effect of the extinguishment and the existing widths to be recorded are attached in Appendix A.

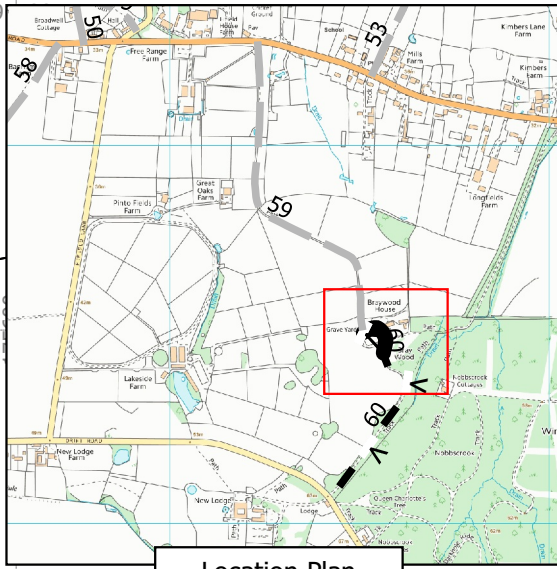
- **Sunninghill Byway 24 / 23 (St. Georges Lane and Wells Lane, Ascot)**

The Council is seeking to make a Traffic Regulation Order along the above lanes to prevent use of the lane by large vehicles. 37 objections have been received to the proposal by members of the Trail Riders Fellowship. Further options regarding this proposal are currently being progressed.

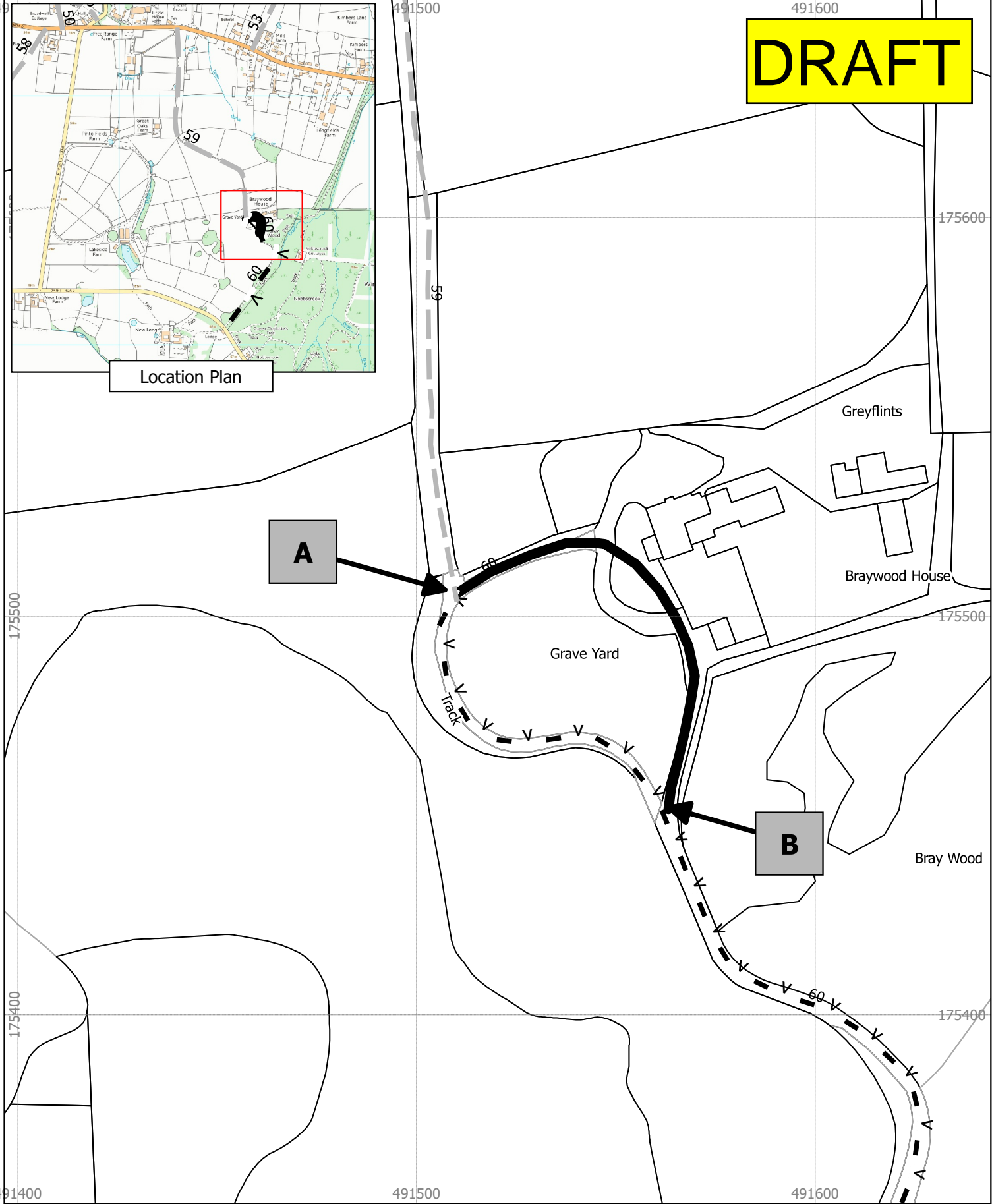
- **Bray Byway 65 (Hawthorn Lane)**

The Council is currently investigating options for a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict the width of vehicles allowed to travel along this lane. This is a joint proposal being worked on with Bracknell Forest Borough Council. Informal consultations with the police, the LAF Fast Response Team, ward members from both Councils and the BFBC Local Countryside Access Forum have been in favour of the proposal. Comments are awaited from Bray Parish Council before the scheme is progressed further.

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Location Plan



Public Rights of Way
 Drawn by: Andrew Fletcher

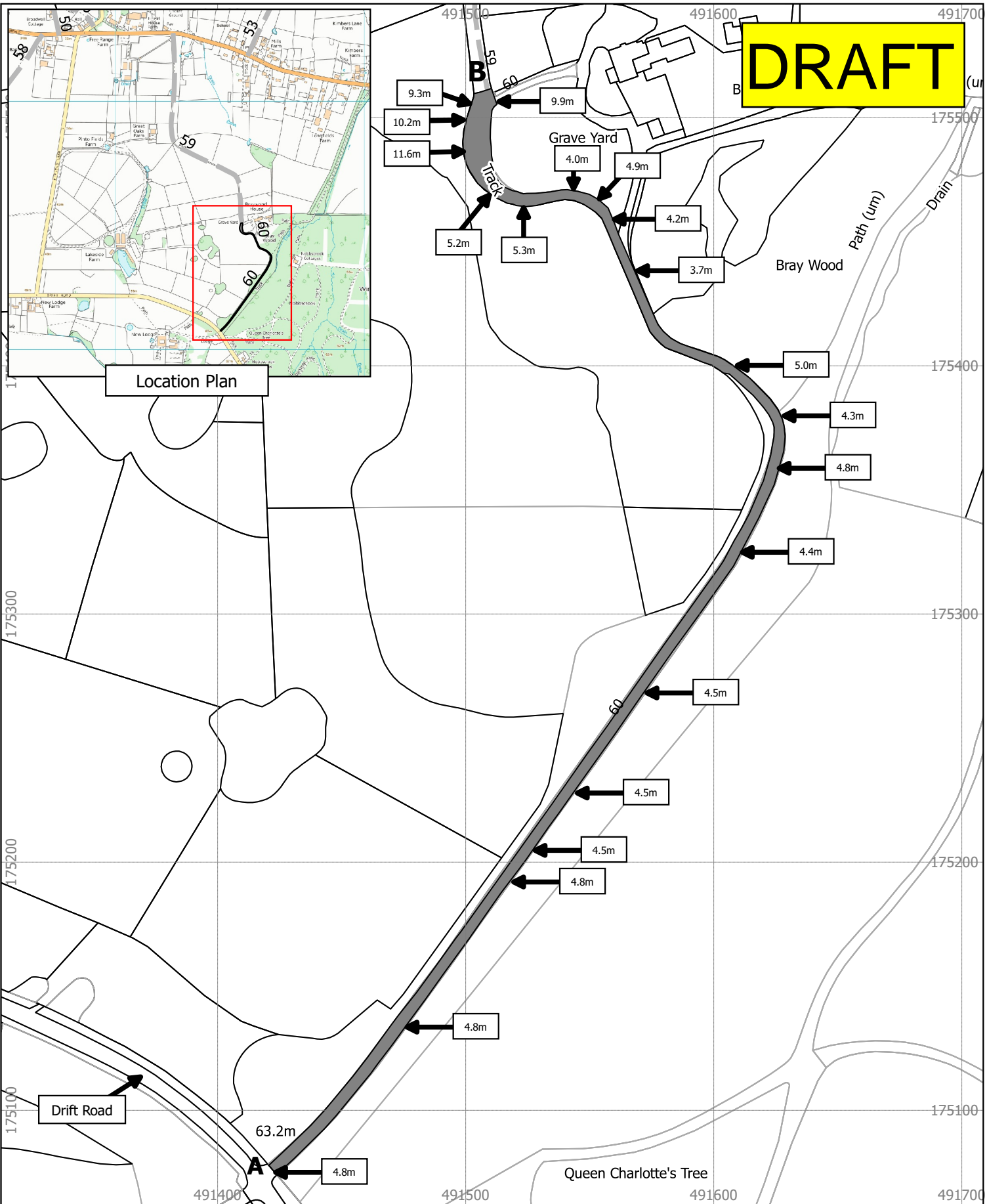
Date: 13/11/2014
 Scale: 1:1,250

**Highways Act 1980 - Section 118
 Bray Restricted Byway 60 (Part) Extinguishment Order 2015
 RBWM036**

-  Section of Restricted Byway to be extinguished
-  Section of Restricted Byway unaffected by the Order
-  Footpaths unaffected by the Order





DRAFT



Public Rights of Way
Drawn by: Andrew Fletcher

Date: 13/11/2014
Scale: 1:2,000

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Bray Restricted Byway 60 Definitive Map Modification Order 2015
RBWM037

-  Bray Restricted Byway 60
-  Other paths unaffected by the order



LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 2 DECEMBER 2014

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM FAST RESPONSE TEAM ACTIVITIES

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the forum about the advice submitted on their behalf by the members of the Fast Response Team

2. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

2.1 The Local Access Forum Fast Response Team was set up by the forum to respond to requests for advice that fall outside of the formal meeting schedule.

2.2 The current members of the forum are as follows:

- Peter Thorn (land and estate management)
- Julie Mason (user interests)
- Phil Smith (user interests)

The terms of reference for the Fast Response Team agreed by the forum on 30th June 2009 state that

The members of the LAF Fast Response Team shall be appointed from within the existing LAF membership so that they shall represent an equal balance between land management interests and user interests.

The total membership of the FRT must be equal and shall not exceed 4 members.

A meeting of the FRT shall be if a minimum of 1 member representing land management interests and 1 member representing user interests is present.

As it can be seen above the Fast Response Team is unfortunately unbalanced as no other members representing land management interests have come forward to date.

One new member representing land management interests are needed for the team to continue to function effectively as a balanced interest group.

2.3 The Fast Response Team has responded to the following consultations on behalf of the forum since 30th June 2014:

- Response to informal consultation regarding the proposed extinguishment of Bray Restricted Byway 60. The response on behalf of the forum was that there were no objections to the proposal.
- Submission to South Bucks District Council regarding the development of the former Skindles site in Taplow and construction of a footbridge over the Thames (included in Appendix A to this report)
- Response to the Dept. for Transport consultation on the Draft Cycling Delivery Plan (response to be tabled at the meeting).
- Response to the consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order banning use by motor vehicles for St. Georges Lane (Byway 24) and Wells Lane (Byway 23) in Ascot & Sunninghill. No objections were raised on behalf of the forum.

- Response to the informal consultation on the proposed joint Traffic Regulation Order for Hawthorn Lane (Bray Byway 65) for a width restriction or total ban of motor vehicles along the lane. The advice on behalf of the forum is that in principle the forum does not object to the order and are happy to leave it to officers and their discussions with the police whether a width restriction or total ban is the most appropriate.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF
Telephone: 01628 796122 **Email:** prow@rbwm.gov.uk
http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm

RBWM Local Access Forum Fast Response Team

Consultation response:

14/01716/FUL | Construction of a footbridge over the Thames from Mill Island to Ray Mead Island | Proposed Footbridge Mill Lane Taplow Buckinghamshire

14/01714/FUL | Demolition of existing mill buildings, existing warehouses, associated structures and former Skindles hotel

The Local Access Forum (LAF) Fast Response Team has examined the proposals for the above applications and wish to make the following comments:

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum support the construction of the new paths and bridge across the Thames, and consider that it would provide an invaluable recreational and utilitarian link for all users, both from Taplow and Maidenhead.

Given this, the forum considers that the paths and bridge should be constructed and dedicated for use by both pedestrians and cyclists. This will allow for an easier and safer way to cross the river by cyclists avoiding the heavy traffic around this area during the weekday mornings and afternoons.

With regard to surfaces, the forum recommends a 3m wide macadam surface with a 1m verge to be the most appropriate in this case. With regard to the construction of the bridge the Forum recommends that a bridge with a minimum clear width of 3 metres will be needed to handle walking and cycling use.

The forum considers that no part of the development should be occupied until the footbridge has been constructed.

<p>This letter constitutes formal advice from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum. Local Authorities are required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.</p>
